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Major wins for Trump and stark pullback on regulations mark momentous Supreme Court term

By MARK SHERMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump and the conservative interests that helped him reshape the Supreme Court got most of what they wanted this term, from substantial help for Trump's political and legal prospects to sharp blows against the administrative state they revile. The decisions reflected a deep and sometimes bitter divide on a court in which conservatives, including three justices appointed by Trump, have a two-to-one advantage over liberals, and seem likely to reinforce the views of most Americans that ideology, rather than a neutral application of the law, drives the outcome of the court's biggest cases.



Members of the Supreme Court sit for a group portrait at the Supreme Court building in Washington, Oct. 7, 2022.

Associated Press
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Major wins for Trump and stark pullback on regulations mark momentous Supreme Court term

Continued from Front

Chief Justice John Roberts, often viewed with suspicion by Trump and his allies over his concerns about judicial independence and worries about the court's reputation, delivered the most consequential decisions. Those include the court's grant of broad immunity from criminal prosecution to former presidents and its reversal of a 40-year-old case that had been used thousands of times to uphold federal regulations.

"He's got competing inclinations. One is to be the statesman and institutionalist," University of California at Los Angeles law professor Richard Hasen said. The other, Hasen said, is to dig in "when it is something that is important enough to him." The end of the court's term marked a remarkable reversal of fortunes for Trump as he seeks a second term as president.

Six months ago, he was readying for a criminal trial in early March in Washington on charges of election interference following his loss to President Joe Biden in 2020 and he was in danger of being kicked off the presidential ballot in several states.

In the court's final decision issued Monday, the justices handed him an indefinite trial delay and narrowed the election interference case against him. Last week, they separately limited the use of an obstruction charge he faces that should give him even more legal arguments, months after the court restored Trump to the presidential ballot.

Each of the three cases stemmed from Trump's actions in the aftermath of the 2020 election, culminating in the attack on the Capitol by his supporters on Jan. 6, 2021. But



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign event at 180 Church, June 15, 2024, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Roberts' opinions offered only dry accounts of the events of Jan. 6, insisting the court "can not afford to fixate ... on present exigencies."

The court also overturned the Chevron decision, stripped the SEC of a major fraud-fighting tool and opened the door to repeated, broad challenges to regulations that, in combination with the end of Chevron, could lead to what Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson described as a "tsunami of lawsuits."

The decisions also provoked spirited, sometimes barbed, discussions of judicial modesty. "A rule of judicial humility gives way to a rule of judicial hubris," Justice Elena Kagan wrote in her dissent from overturning Chevron.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson chided Roberts for the "feigned judicial humility" of his opinion on immunity. Roberts mocked the dissenters' "tone of chilling doom."

In each of the Trump cases, the majority included Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Ka-

vanaugh, two of Trump's three appointees, and two others, Alito and Justice Clarence Thomas, who also rebuffed calls to sit out the Trump cases. Those same justices, plus Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett, formed the majority in the cases about federal regulations.

The conservatives also voted together on a major homelessness case that found outdoor sleeping bans aimed at homeless encampments don't violate the constitutional prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment - even when shelter space is lacking.

Roberts, though, has repeatedly defended the court from criticism that its justices were little more than politicians in robes.

But the court's public standing has taken a hit in recent years, particularly since Roe was overturned. Seven out of 10 Americans said the justices are more likely to be guided by their own ideology rather than serving as neutral arbiters of government authority, ac-

cording to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research that was conducted before the final round of decisions was issued.

Abortion was one issue in which the court sidestepped the liberal-conservative divide by avoiding major rulings in a presidential election year when abortion is an animating issue, mainly because of the justices' 2022 decision that led to abortion bans or severe restrictions in most Republican-controlled states.

A one-sentence order in a case from Idaho cleared the way for emergency abortions to resume, despite the state's strict abortion ban. But it didn't end the court case or answer key questions about whether doctors can provide emergency abortions elsewhere, even in states where abortion bans would prohibit them.

In a second abortion case, the justices unanimously dismissed a lawsuit from anti-abortion doctors who sought to roll back decisions made by the Food and Drug Administration to ease access to mifepristone, a pill used in nearly two-thirds of abortions in the United States last year. The decision explicitly avoided any ruling on the FDA's actions, focusing entirely on the doctors' lack of legal standing to sue. The mifepristone case was one of several from the conservative 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans that made the court seem the picture of moderation. The justices also reversed 5th Circuit rulings that would have struck down a federal gun control law intended to protect victims of domestic violence, overturned the funding structure for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and barred Biden administration officials from trying to persuade social media platforms to remove misinformation.

In a separate case involving guns, the court overturned a Trump-era Justice Department regulation that banned bump stocks, rapid-fire gun accessories used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. The court was divided along ideological lines, with conservatives in the majority. A term's final days often produce a torrent of heated exchanges in the most contentious cases, and this year saw more than its share of big rulings that waited until the very end.

In May, Justice Sonia Sotomayor telegraphed what the recent days might look like for her and the other liberal justices. "There are days that I've come to my office after an announcement of a case and closed my door and cried," Sotomayor said after receiving an award from Harvard's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. "And there are likely to be more." □

Giuliani is disbarred in New York as court finds he repeatedly lied about Trump's 2020 election loss

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)— Rudolph Giuliani, the former New York City mayor, federal prosecutor and legal adviser to Donald Trump, was disbarred in New York on Tuesday after a court found he repeatedly made false statements about Trump's 2020 election loss.

The Manhattan appeals court ruled Giuliani, who had his New York law license suspended in 2021 for making false statements around the election, is no longer allowed to practice law in the state, effective immediately.

"The seriousness of respondent's misconduct cannot be overstated," the decision reads.

Giuliani "flagrantly misused" his position and "baselessly attacked and undermined the integrity of this country's electoral process."

"In so doing, respondent not only deliberately violated some of the most fundamental tenets of the legal profession, but he also actively contributed to the national strife that has followed the 2020 Presidential election, for which he is entirely unrepentant," the court wrote.

Giuliani said Tuesday that he wasn't surprised to lose his law license in his hometown, claiming in a post on the social media platform X that the case was "based on an activist complaint, replete with false arguments."

The former mob prosecutor was admitted to the New York bar in 1969, but before pleading Trump's case in November 2020, Giuliani had not appeared in court as an attorney since 1992, according to court records.

A Giuliani spokesperson, Ted Goodman, said the man once dubbed "America's mayor" will appeal the "objectively flawed" decision by the midlevel state court. He also called on others in the legal community to speak out against the "politically and



Rudy Giuliani speaks during a news conference outside federal court in Washington, Dec. 15, 2023. Giuliani has been disbarred in New York.

Associated Press

ideologically corrupted decision."

Giuliani's attorney Arthur Aidala was more measured, saying his legal team was "obviously disappointed" but not surprised by the decision. He said they "put up a valiant effort" to prevent the disbarment but "saw the writing on the wall."

Giuliani argued in hearings held last October that he believed the claims he was making on behalf of the Trump campaign were true, but the court, in its decision, said it wasn't convinced.

"Contrary to respondent's allegations, there is nothing on the record before us that would permit the conclusion that respondent lacked knowledge of the falsehood of the numerous statements that he made, and that he had a good faith basis to believe them to be true," the decision reads.

Among other things, the court said it found that Giuliani "falsely and dishonestly" claimed during the 2020 Presidential election that thousands of votes were cast in the names of dead people in Philadelphia, including a ballot in the name of the late boxing great Joe Frazier. He also falsely claimed people were taken from nearby

Camden, New Jersey, to vote illegally in the Pennsylvania city, the court said.

"These false statements were made to improperly bolster respondent's narrative that due to widespread voter fraud, victory in the 2020 United States presidential election was stolen from his client," the decision read.

The disbarment comes amid mounting woes for the 80-year-old Giuliani. In May, WABC radio suspended him and canceled his daily talk show because he refused to stop making false claims about the 2020 election.

Giuliani is also facing the possibility of losing his law license in Washington.□



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Dangerously high heat builds in California and the south-central United States

By ADAM BEAM and JOHN ANTICZAK
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Swaths of California sweltered Tuesday and things were only expected to get worse during the Fourth of July holiday week for parts of the United States with nearly 90 million people under heat alerts.

The torrid conditions were being caused by a ridge of high pressure just off the West Coast and a separate ridge that spawned heat warnings and advisories from Kansas and Missouri to the Gulf Coast states, according to the National Weather Service.

California's capital, Sacramento, was under an excessive heat warning expected to last until Sunday night, with temperatures forecasted to reach between 105 degrees and 115 degrees (40.5-46 Celsius).

John Mendoza, 35, called it a "firehose of heat" as he walked around the Capitol on Tuesday morning with an iced coffee in his hand. By 9 a.m., he had already been in a pool once—and planned to go back later in the day. "I felt like I needed to be submerged in water," he said. With the temperatures rising



A man fishes off a jetty in Alameda, Calif., as the sun sets over the San Francisco Bay on Monday, July 1, 2024.

before noon in Sacramento, Katherine Powers sought refuge in the shade of Cathedral Square. Powers, who is homeless, sipped sparkling water while resting her bare feet on the shaded sidewalk. Powers said she had loaned her shoes to a friend. She had not yet visited one of Sacramento County's nine "cooling centers," she said, because of the difficulty in bringing all the possessions

she carries.

"I'm just going to go to a park with a water fountain just to stay cool, stay in the shade and just keep pouring water on me, basically," she said. "There's not too much that I can do."

Darlene Crumedy, who lives in Fairfield about an hour's drive from Sacramento, said she doesn't use air conditioning because it's too expensive.

"I'm good, I have a hundred fans," she said, adding she tries to stay inside and drink cold water.

Kim Mims, a Sacramento native, said she prefers the heat but only up to 100 degrees (38 C).

"Anything over that you start to feel that difference," she said.

An analysis by The Associated Press found that heat killed more than 2,300 people in

Associated Press

the U.S. last year, setting a record. That figure is likely a major undercount, dozens of experts told AP reporters. Dr. Arthur Jey, an emergency services physician with Sutter Health in Sacramento, told reporters that getting out of the heat is important, along with wearing a hat and loose clothes, hydration and watching out for signs of heat stroke.

"With heat stroke, it looks like a stroke," Jey said, describing symptoms that may include acting unusual, significant headaches, blurry vision, profuse sweating and then no sweating.

"And that's a really big deal," Jey said. "So we want to prevent them getting even close to heat stroke." California's heat was expected to spread from north to south

over the week, with the worst of it focused on interior areas including the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys and the southern deserts. But warnings extended out to just short of the coast.

San Francisco, famous for its cool summers, was expected to have a high Tuesday in the upper 80s (31 C) downtown but mid-60s (18.3 C) at Ocean Beach, forecasters said. □

Union sues Philadelphia over requirement that city workers return to the office full time

By BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI
Associated Press

A union that represents thousands of Philadelphia city employees asked a judge Tuesday to block Mayor Cherelle Parker's requirement that they return to their offices full time as of July 15.

The lawsuit, filed by District Council 47 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, claims the mandate violates its contract and will harm city workers. The union, which represents 6,000 administrative and supervisory employees, also filed an unfair-practices complaint with the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board.

Parker announced the mandate in May, saying she wanted to create a more visible and accessible government. The decision ended the city's virtual

work policy, put in place in 2021, and essentially returns employee scheduling to what it was before the coronavirus pandemic. About 80% of the city's

26,000 employees have been working fully on site since last year, while the rest have worked on site 31 to 75 hours per pay period, Parker said. Former Mayor Jim Kenney had left hybrid work decisions up to department heads.

The union sharply criticized the decision when it was announced, saying it was unilaterally imposed instead of going through collective bargaining. They also believe the policy will worsen the worker shortage the city has suffered since the pandemic.

They also argue that the city lacks enough office space to bring all employees back and that making the change over the sum-



Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker speaks at Philadelphia International Airport, Feb. 16, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

mer, when children are out of school, complicates schedules for parents.

Parker, a Democrat, has said her administration does not believe the new policy is subject to collective bargaining. She also noted changes that were made to be more worker friendly, such as extending paid parental leave from six to eight weeks and designating the Friday after Thanksgiving as a holiday. Officials have also said there will be relaxed restrictions on sick leave to care for family members.

Business leaders welcomed the announcement, saying it will benefit workers and the vibrancy of Philadelphia's downtown. □

U.N. adopts Chinese resolution with U.S. support on closing the gap in access to artificial intelligence

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly adopted a Chinese-sponsored resolution with U.S. support urging wealthy developed nations to close the widening gap with poorer developing countries and ensure that they have equal opportunities to use and benefit from artificial intelligence.

The resolution approved Monday follows the March 21 adoption of the first U.N. resolution on artificial intelligence spearheaded by the United States and co-sponsored by 123 countries including China. It gave global support to the international effort to ensure that AI is "safe, secure and trustworthy" and that all nations can take advantage of it. Adoption of the two non-binding resolutions shows that the United States and China, rivals in many areas, are both determined to be key players in shaping the future of the powerful new technology and have been cooperating on the first important international steps. The adoption of both resolutions by consensus by the 193-member General Assem-



Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations addresses members of the U.N. Security Council during a meeting on Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, April 24, 2024 at United Nations headquarters.

Associated Press

bly shows widespread global support for their leadership on the issue.

Fu Cong, China's U.N. ambassador, told reporters Monday that the two resolutions are complementary, with the U.S. measure being "more general" and the just-adopted one focusing on "capacity building."

He called the Chinese resolution, which had more than 140 sponsors, "great and far-reaching," and said, "We're very appreciative of the positive role that the U.S. has played in this whole process."

Nate Evans, spokesperson for the U.S. mission to the United Nations, said Tuesday

that the Chinese-sponsored resolution "was negotiated so it would further the vision and approach the U.S. set out in March."

"We worked diligently and in good faith with developing and developed countries to strengthen the text, ensuring it reaffirms safe, secure, and trustworthy AI that respects

human rights, commits to digital inclusion, and advances sustainable development," Evans said.

Fu said that AI technology is advancing extremely fast and the issue has been discussed at very senior levels, including by the U.S. and Chinese leaders.

"We do look forward to intensifying our cooperation with the United States and for that matter with all countries in the world on this issue, which ... will have far-reaching implications in all dimensions," he said.

The Chinese ambassador, however, strongly criticized the U.S. Treasury Department's proposed rule, announced on June 21, that would restrict and monitor U.S. investments in China for artificial intelligence, computer chips and quantum computing.

"We are firmly opposed to these sanctions," Fu said. China doesn't believe the rule will be "helpful to the healthy development of the AI technology per se, and will, by extension, divide the world in terms of the standards, and in terms of the rules governing AI." He called on the U.S. to lift the sanctions. □

Stampede at religious event in India kills more than 100, mostly women and children

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Thousands of people at a religious gathering in India rushed to leave a makeshift tent, setting off a stampede Tuesday that killed more than 100 and left scores injured, officials said.

It was not immediately clear what triggered the panic following an event with Hindu figure Bhole Baba. Local news reports cited authorities who said heat and suffocation in the tent could have been a factor. Video of the aftermath showed the structure appeared to have collapsed.

At least 116 people died, most of them women and children, said Prashant Kumar, the director-general of police in northern India's state of Uttar Pradesh,

where the stampede occurred.

More than 80 others were injured and admitted to hospitals, senior police officer Shalabh Mathur said. "People started falling one upon another, one upon another. Those who were crushed died. People there pulled them out," witness Shakuntala Devi told the Press Trust of India news agency.

Relatives wailed in distress as bodies of the dead, placed on stretchers and covered in white sheets, lined the grounds of a local hospital. A bus that arrived there carried more victims, whose bodies were lying on the seats inside.

Deadly stampedes are relatively common around Indian religious festivals, where large crowds gather

in small areas with shoddy infrastructure and few safety measures.

Police officer Rajesh Singh said there was likely overcrowding at the event in a village in Hathras district about 350 kilometers (220 miles) southwest of the state capital, Lucknow.

Initial reports suggested that over 15,000 people had gathered for the event, which had permission to host about 5,000. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered condolences to the families of the dead and said the federal government was working with state authorities to ensure the injured received help.

Uttar Pradesh's chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, called the stampede "heart-wrenching" in a post on X.

He said authorities were investigating.

In 2013, pilgrims visiting a temple for a popular Hindu festival in central Madhya Pradesh state trampled each other amid fears that

a bridge would collapse. At least 115 were crushed to death or died in the river. In 2011, more than 100 Hindu devotees died in a crush at a religious festival in the southern state of Kerala. □



People carry a woman on a stretcher outside the Sikandrarao hospital in Hathras district about 350 kilometers (217 miles) southwest of Lucknow, India, Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

Associated Press

Dutch king swears in a new government 7 months after far-right party won elections

By MOLLY QUELL

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Netherlands has a different prime minister for the first time in 14 years as Dutch King Willem-Alexander swore in the country's new government Tuesday, more than seven months after elections dominated by a far-right, anti-Islam party.

Dick Schoof, former head of the Dutch intelligence agency and counterterrorism office, signed the official royal decree at Huis Ten Bosch Palace, saying he "declared and promised" to uphold his duties as the country's prime minister. The 67-year-old was formally installed alongside 15 other ministers who make up the country's right-leaning coalition.

The anti-immigration party of firebrand Geert Wilders won the largest share of seats in elections last year but it took 223 days to form a government.

The new coalition quickly faced criticism of its marquee anti-immigration policies by its own party members, as well as opposition groups. Protesters gathered in front of the palace where the ceremony took place on Tuesday, with one



Dutch King Willem-Alexander meets with Dick Schoof, right, who was nominated to succeed Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte in The Hague, Netherlands, Monday, July 1, 2024.

Associated Press

woman carrying a sign asking: "Are we democratically getting rid of our democracy?"

The four parties in the coalition are Wilders' Party for Freedom, outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte's center-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, the populist Farmer Citizen Movement and the centrist New Social Contract party. The formal agreement creating the new coalition, titled "Hope, courage and

pride," introduces strict measures on asylum-seekers, scraps family reunification for refugees and seeks to reduce the number of international students studying in the country.

Opposition from other coalition partners prevented the controversial Wilders from taking the prime minister's job.

During the monthslong negotiations, he backpedaled on several of his most extreme views, including

withdrawing draft legislation that would have banned mosques, Islamic schools and the Quran. For the first time since World War II, the Netherlands is now led by a prime minister who is not aligned with a political party. Before serving as chief of the country's top intelligence agency, Schoof was previously the counterterror chief and the head of the country's Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The other government ministers were sworn in Tuesday according to seniority of their departments. One minister, Femke Wiersma who will head the agriculture portfolio, made her declaration in Frisian the country's second official language alongside Dutch. Although the November elections were widely seen as a win for the far right, political youth organizations are already pushing back on the ambitions of the new government. Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, youth groups from six parties, including two of the coalition partners, called for a softening on asylum plans.

"Although the influx must be limited, it is of great importance that we receive people here fairly and with dignity," Eva Brandemann, chairperson of the youth wing of the New Social Contract, told Dutch public broadcaster NOS.

Her counterpart in Rutte's party, which brought down the government last summer over concerns about the number of family reunifications for refugees, said that problems stemmed from administration, not migration. □

Venezuela's opposition coalition welcomes President Maduro's plan to jumpstart dialogue with the U.S.



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro speaks after signing an agreement to respect the results of the upcoming presidential elections, at the National Electoral Council headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, June 20, 2024.

Associated Press

By REGINA GARCIA CANO

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's main opposition coalition on Tuesday welcomed President Nicolas Maduro's announcement the day before about his intentions to jumpstart negotiations with the United States this week.

The executive secretary of the U.S.-backed Unitary Platform coalition, Omar Barboza, told reporters that the alliance sees Maduro's statement on Monday and his openness to dialogue only weeks away from Venezuela's highly anticipated presidential election as a positive sign.

The coalition's negotiators will be ready to participate in bilateral discussions if they are needed, in the interest of the "electoral process and respect for democratic guarantees," Barboza said.

"Differences must be resolved through peaceful means, through dialogue," Barboza told reporters.

The U.S. has not confirmed any planned negotiations with the government of Maduro, who said talks with the Biden administration would resume on Wednesday. He described the dialogue as "urgent" during his weekly TV show.

Maduro has held parallel talks with the Biden administration and the opposition coalition for about two years, seeking to rid Venezuela of economic sanctions that cut off the oil-dependent country from Western markets, contributing to a complex crisis that began more than a decade ago. He has also sought to regain access to billions in assets frozen abroad. □

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About LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba: LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barceló Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 10 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. □

Baby Beach Registers Effects of Hurricane Beryl

Yesterday morning, Baby Beach woke up looking different from any other day. Hurricane Beryl was traversing the Caribbean and leaving minor effects on our island, where Aruba Today managed to capture some footage to show how the sea was on that day.

In the footage, it is illustrated that the sea was quite rough, with waves reaching the palapas and getting very close to the well-known restaurant located on this beach. Yesterday afternoon, the Aruba Meteorological Department indicated around 2 PM that the weather was partly cloudy with brief showers due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean, which brought humidity to the local region. Regarding maritime conditions and the state of the sea, they mentioned that the sea was rough with waves of 5 to 7 feet and that they could reach up to

9 or 10 feet. They warned those using small boats, especially from the east to northwest parts and the south, to head to the shore and for sea users to be cautious as the moderate rip current could make this area a bit rough. As of yesterday afternoon, Beryl was located 375 KM southeast of the Dominican Republic and 895 KM from Jamaica. Hurricane Beryl made history by changing to a category 5 yesterday, reporting several deaths in the Caribbean and one off the coast of Venezuela. Thousands of people were without power and had to take shelter in temporary refuges in St. Vincent, the Grenadines, and St. Lucia. It is expected to reach Mexico by the end of this week.

On Aruba, Baby Beach is one of the most popular beaches for tourism. It is for this reason that we advise our visitors to be extra careful when going for a swim, and always keep an eye out for each other's safety. □



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Birds of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following

pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm.

Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje). Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □



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(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also

Food culture in Aruba

find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a

sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are

eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post nightlife fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional

purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Mario Nacinovich from Woburn, Massachusetts. He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is...endless memories over 25 years with my wife and daughters. My wife and I honeymooned here in 1998 and have continued to enjoy our home away from home with family and friends ever since!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then re-located to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When you're planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However,

Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

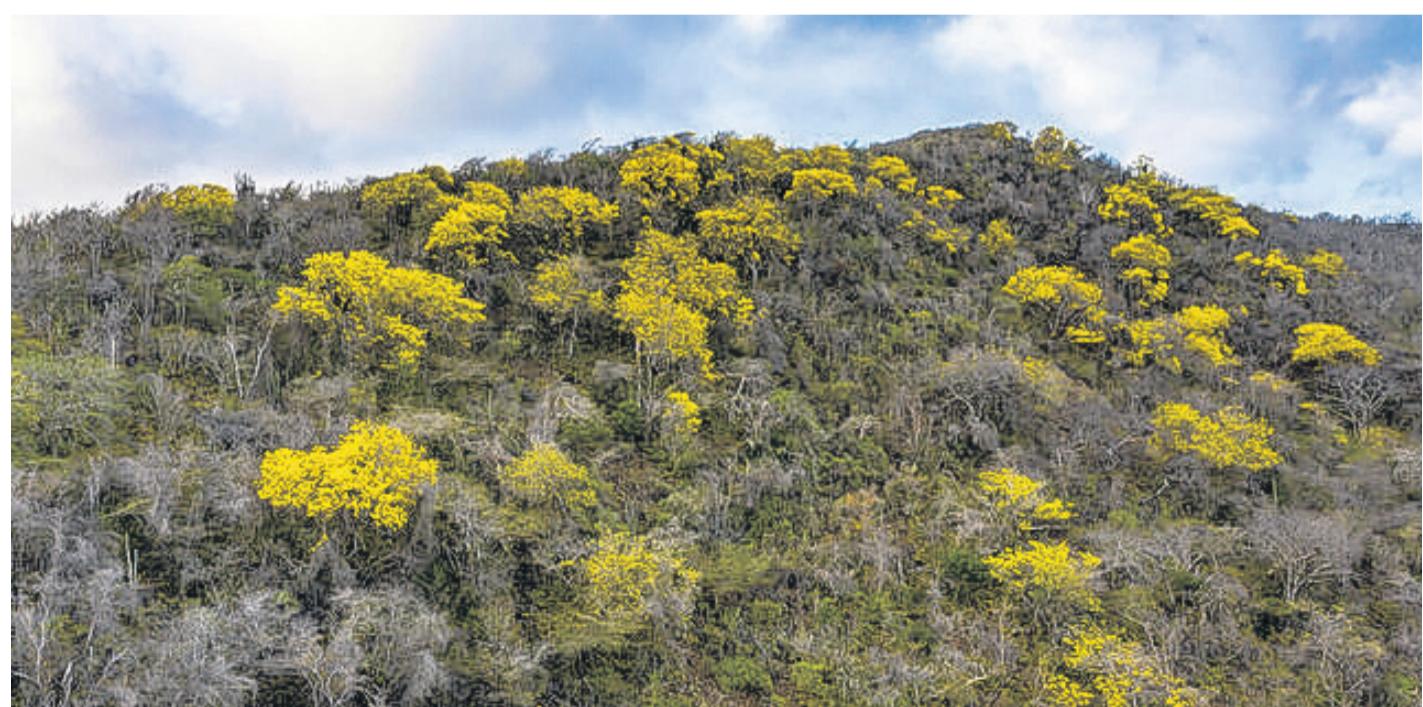
Because of its land surface, Sava-

neta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.□

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



Alonso de Ojeda



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Writer

1 Showy flowers

Rice

7 Dull pain

Procras-tinator's

11 Slow reptile

words

12 Cornfield pest

DOWN

13 Bagel choice

“— a deal!”

14 Carry Vast

Regret

15 Really bad, in slang

Auditor's org.

20 Declares

Pancake order

23 Fire remnant

Sailors' saint

24 Earned in quantity

Spots

26 Airport screening org.

On the go

27 Bullring cry

Predatory reptile

28 Wedding words

She sheep

29 Places of worship

Spicy

31 Zodiac cat

Produces

32 Girder metal

30 Folks

33 Trans-mitted

41 Low digit

34 Blew one's top

42 Informer

43 Spot for laps

44 Spiny reptile

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California considers unique safety regulations for AI companies, but faces tech firm opposition

By TRÂN NGUYÊN
Associated Press
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California lawmakers are considering legislation that would require artificial intelligence companies to test their systems and add safety measures so they can't be potentially manipulated to wipe out the state's electric grid or help build chemical weapons scenarios that experts say could be possible in the future as technology evolves at warp speed.

Legislators plan to vote Tuesday on this first-of-its-kind bill, which aims to reduce risks created by AI. It is fiercely opposed by tech companies, including Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, and Google. They say the regulations take aim at developers and instead should be focused on those who use and exploit the AI systems for harm.

Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener, who authors the bill, said the proposal would provide reasonable safety standards by preventing "catastrophic harms" from extremely powerful AI models that may be created in the future. The requirements would only apply to sys-

tems that cost more than \$100 million in computing power to train. No current AI models have hit that threshold as of July. "This is not about smaller AI models," Wiener said at a recent legislative hearing. "This is about incredibly large and powerful models that, as far as we know, do not exist today but will exist in the near future." □

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ARUBA TODAY **BONDIA ARUBA**

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Starting your first post-graduation job? Here's how to organize your finances

By ADRIANA MORGÀ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — With graduation season over, many college grads are embarking on summer internships or their first full-time jobs. Navigating your finances when you start adult life can be challenging, from understanding your health insurance and benefits to managing a budget.

Finding a job is often the first hurdle, so if you've accomplished that, take a moment to be proud of yourself.

"Once you do get that first job, pat yourself on the back," said Nick Holeman, director of financial planning for Betterment, a financial advisory company.

Then it's time to think about your financial future. With credit card delinquencies growing and interest rates still high, it's more important than ever for recent graduates to start their adult lives on the right financial track. Here are recommendations from experts about how to do that:

Pay attention to onboarding instructions

Getting your first job is exciting, but the onboarding process can feel overwhelming. When you start a new job, most companies offer guidance about benefits such as your 401(k)



Morehouse College student lines up before the school commencement, May 19, 2024, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

and health insurance. It's a lot of information, but it's important not to ignore it, Holeman said.

One key thing to focus on is your employer-sponsored retirement plan. While many companies automatically enroll you, Holeman recommends you save more than the typical 2% to 3%. Automatic enrollment allows your employer to take a set amount from your paycheck to allocate to a retirement investment account. You can choose to opt out or increase the amount you contribute.

"Because you're automatically enrolled doesn't mean you can't go in and increase how much you're contributing," he said. "And that's a great way to build those automatic savings habits that around going to take you throughout the rest of your career."

Figure out your health insurance

Some recent grads might stay on their parents' health insurance while others might enroll in an employers' health insurance plan. But if your job doesn't offer health insurance, experts

recommend you enroll in the Affordable Care Act.

"You shouldn't go uninsured if you are going to be working for an employer that doesn't offer health insurance," said Louise Norris, health policy analyst for healthinsurance.org.

While you're navigating the ACA's marketplace, you must take into consideration your budget, health, and availability of doctors in your area. If your employer offers several health insurance plans, Norris recommends learning the details of the plans, such as your

deductible, co-pays and use policy.

If you're generally healthy and don't go to the doctor often, Holeman recommends you choose a high-deductible health plan, because it will allow you to save money in a health savings account, also known as an HSA. An HSA lets you set aside pre-tax money to pay for medical expenses, which can help you cut out-of-pocket costs when you visit the doctor.

Save for emergencies

Emergencies are tough to prepare for because you never know when they will happen and how expensive they will be. However, it's a good practice to have an emergency fund that will alleviate some of the financial burden if something goes wrong.

"Think of your emergency fund as a 'break glass in case of emergency,'" said Holeman, who recommended that you keep your emergency savings in a separate bank account.

Emergency fund amounts vary depending on each person's circumstances but Holeman recommends that you save three to six months of expenses.

This is an ideal scenario, but any amount of savings can be helpful in case of an emergency. □

Small businesses could find filing for bankruptcy more difficult as government program expires

By MAE ANDERSON

AP Business Writer



A person walks past an ice cream stand on the boardwalk, Thursday, June 2, 2022, in Ocean City, N.J.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A type of bankruptcy protection filing that made it easier for small businesses to seek relief has expired, which will complicate filing for small businesses with more than \$3 million in debt.

The filing type, known as Subchapter V, is cheaper and less time-consuming than the traditional Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

The rule went into effect in 2020 as part of the Small Business Reorganization Act. It let small businesses with less than \$2.75 million in debt file under the sub-chapter. That debt limit

was extended to \$7.5 million in March 2020 amid the pandemic for one year and that was extended two more times.

A bill to make the debt limit permanent failed, so the debt threshold reverted to \$3 million (the original debt limit adjusted for inflation), on June 21.

Subchapter V filing imposes shorter deadlines for filing reorganization plans, allows for greater flexibility in negotiating restructuring plans with creditors and doesn't require the payment of U.S. Trustee quarterly fees. A trustee is ap-

pointed for each case and the trustee works with the small business debtor and creditors to facilitate a reorganization plan.

According to data compiled by the Justice Department's U.S. Trustee Program, between 2020 and 2023, Subchapter V filers had 51% of plans confirmed by a judge, compared with 31% of plans from filers of other types of bankruptcy protection. Subchapter V filers had half the percentage of plans dismissed compared with other filers, and a shorter time to confirmation. □

Marketa Vondrousova is the first defending women's Wimbledon champ out in the first round since 1994

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Marketa Vondrousova became the first defending women's champion at Wimbledon to lose in the first round the next year since 1994, eliminated 6-4, 6-2 by Jessica Bouzas Maneiro at Centre Court on Tuesday.

Vondrousova was a surprise title winner at the All England Club 12 months ago, the first unseeded woman to claim the trophy at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament.

Now she enters the books in another and less-wanted historic way. The only other time in the sport's Open era, which dates to 1968, that a woman went from a championship at Wimbledon to an immediate exit a year later was when Steffi Graf was defeated by Lori McNeil 30 years ago.

"I was happy to be back on the Centre Court," Vondrousova said. "It just didn't go as planned today."

Vondrousova was seeded No. 6 this time, but the left-hander, who was the runner-up at the 2019 French Open and a silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, was never quite able to demonstrate her full game Tuesday. She appeared to still be suffering after-effects from a fall during a tuneup tournament on grass in Berlin last month that hurt her hip.



Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic reacts during her first round match against Jessica Bouzas Maneiro of Spain at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

Associated Press

"I was a bit slower, maybe. I was a bit scared," Vondrousova said. "But credit to her. She was playing a good match, too. I didn't feel at my best, (but) she didn't give me many points for free."

How big a deal was this for Bouzas Maneiro?

She is competing in a Grand Slam tournament for only the third time and came into the day with an 0-2 record at those events. Bouzas Maneiro also had never won a match at a tour-level grass tournament and never beaten an opponent ranked

in the top 10. "This is one of the most important moments in my life, in my career, here in this sport. This is amazing," said Bouzas Maneiro, a 21-year-old from Spain who is ranked 83rd this week, equaling her career high.

"I was like, 'I have no pressure. Just enjoy the moment, enjoy the tournament.' Just trying to be free playing, and I did it, so I'm happy for that," she said.

Vondrousova added to the series of past major title winners dropping out of the singles brackets within the first 30 hours of action at Wimble-

don this year although others did so without playing a point.

Earlier Tuesday, Andy Murray pulled out of singles because he decided he wasn't able to compete a little more than a week after having surgery to remove a cyst from his spine. His final appearance at Wimbledon, which he won in 2013 and 2016, will come in doubles alongside his older brother, Jamie.

Two seeded women who both have been ranked No. 1 and own two Australian Open championships

apiece, No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 16 Victoria Azarenka, withdrew on Monday before their first-round matches because of shoulder injuries. Sabalenka was the pre-tournament favorite to take the women's title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

Intermittent rain delayed matches on the outside courts more than once Tuesday, and the retractable roofs at Centre Court and No. 1 Court were shut to allow play in those two stadiums. No. 6 seed Andrey Rublev lost, while winners on Day 2 included No. 1 Iga Swiatek, 2022 champion Elena Rybakina and No. 5 seed Jessica Pegula among the women, and seven-time champion Novak Djokovic, No. 4 seed Alexander Zverev and No. 7 Hubert Hurkacz among the men. For Djokovic, his 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 win against qualifier Vit Kopriva was the first match since having surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee on June 5.

"Obviously started a little bit more cautious, I would say. I didn't really maybe go for certain shots 100% ... (in) the first set," said Djokovic, who wore a gray sleeve on his right knee. "I played, I think, just enough to win confidently in straight sets. I felt like as the match progressed, I moved better." □

All-Star Futures Game headlined by last two No. 2 MLB draft picks, Dylan Crews and Drew Jones

By The Associated Press

The last two No. 2 overall Major League Baseball draft picks will play for the National League in the All-Star Futures Game featuring top prospects.

Washington's Dylan Crews, the second pick in 2023, and Arizona's Drew Jones (2022) headline a group that includes a dozen former first-round selections on both the National League and American League rosters. The teams were announced on Tuesday for the July 13 game at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas.

Crews is ranked as MLB's No. 4 overall prospect by Baseball America while Jones is the Diamondbacks' No. 3 prospect. The Detroit Tigers' No. 3 pick in last year's draft, Max Clark, is among the former first-rounders on the AL team. He is rated as the Tigers' top hitting prospect and the No. 10 overall prospect in the majors.

The game will be followed by a hitting contest before the All-Star Celebrity Softball Game.

Two former Texas Rangers stars will serve as managers. Four-time All-Star Adrian Beltre, a 2024 Hall of Fame selection, will manage the AL Futures team. Seven-time All-Star Michael Young, the 2005 American League batting champion, leads the NL team.

The seven-inning game features top minor league prospects competing as part of All-Star Saturday. The National League vs. American League format was introduced in 2019 after 20 years of U.S. vs. World matchups. □



Arizona Diamondbacks' first-round draft pick Drew Jones throws out the first pitch prior to the team's baseball game against the Washington Nationals on Saturday, July 23, 2022, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

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The easier path on the PGA Tour doesn't make it easy

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

Jordan Spieth returns to the John Deere Classic for the first time since he won a playoff in 2015. Just don't get the idea this is some kind of nostalgia tour. He needs the points.

Spieth started the year guaranteed starts in all eight of the PGA Tour's signature events and finished third at Kapalua in the first one. But he has plunged all the way to No. 59 as he works through a wrist injury and at times has played practice rounds while on the phone for one of many meetings as a PGA Tour board member.

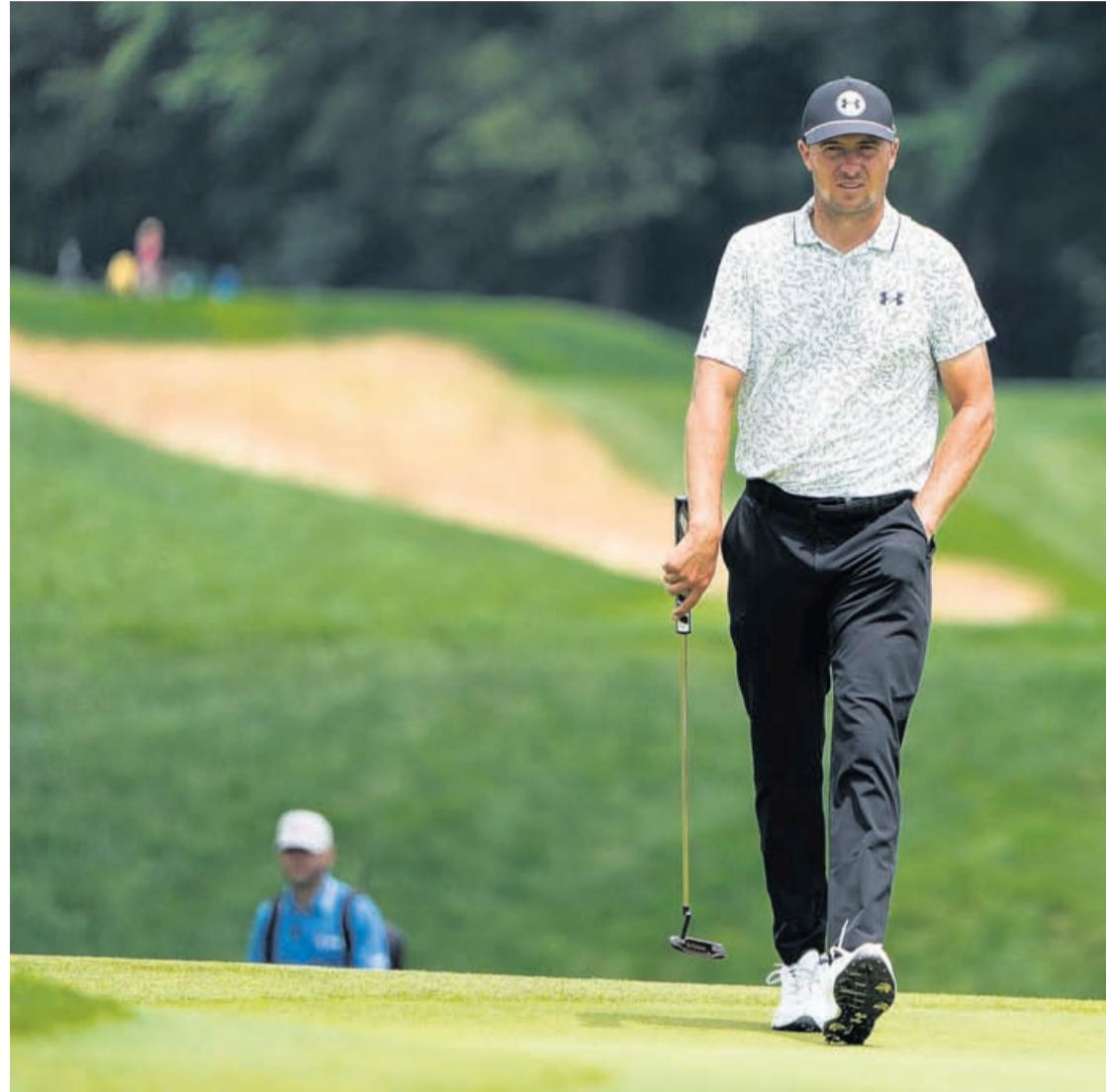
Time is running out. Five tournament weeks remain before the postseason, and while the top 70 advance to the FedEx Cup playoffs, the magic number is 50.

That guarantees a spot in next year's signature events with their \$20 million purses and elevated points.

That's the easier path. It doesn't mean it's easy.

Spieth is among 15 players who started the year with the advantage of playing all the signature events and now are outside the top 50 heading into the home stretch. One of those was Tyrrell Hatton, who really took the easy path by joining Saudi-funded LIV Golf with its no-cut \$20 million events.

Rickie Fowler at No. 93 is in the lowest spot of those 14 players still on the PGA Tour. He is one year and one week removed from his Rocket Mortgage Classic victory. Since then, his best finish is 16th at the Tour Championship. In the signature events, his best is a tie for 18th in the RBC Heritage. It's a reminder that in this era of massive change on the PGA Tour more money for fewer players



Jordan Spieth walks on the 12th fairway during the third round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament at TPC River Highlands, Saturday, June 22, 2024, in Cromwell, Conn.

Associated Press

performance still matters. There was so much hand-wringing about pandering to the stars last year that not enough attention was paid to Justin Thomas and Adam Schenk. One was a 15-time PGA Tour winner who had a stinker of a year and missed the playoffs. The other was a journeyman who cashed in at the right time and earned his way to the Tour Championship.

Thomas did well enough for so long that he didn't fall far, and his world ranking in the top 30 got him into the signature events. He had top 12s in four of those events, along with a strong finish in The American Express and the PGA Cham-

pionship, so he is No. 16 in the FedEx Cup.

Fowler is this year's version of Thomas, minus the world ranking, although it's not too early to speculate whether he will get some of the exemptions that went to Webb Simpson next year if he doesn't turn it around quickly.

This year's Schenk? Eight players outside the top 50 in the FedEx Cup last year have won tournaments, a list ranging from Taylor Pendrith to Stephan Jaeger. Two players currently inside the top 30 got there without winning Christiaan Bezuidenhout and Thomas Detry.

Another example is former FedEx Cup champion Billy

Horschel, who had no guarantee of signature events after a poor 2023 season. He won in the Dominican Republic.

He had a pair of top 10s in regular PGA Tour events and a tie for eighth in the PGA Championship. Horschel got into one signature event based on his win, two others on an exemption. He took advantage only at the Memorial with a tie for 15th.

Horschel, 90th in the FedEx Cup a year ago, is at No. 46 and plans to play the final four tournaments on the schedule starting next week at the Scottish Open. "These signature events are great for a multitude of reasons," Horschel said. "But if

you don't play well, you're behind the eight ball. And with the shorter season, we all knew it was going to be a sprint."

Those events can go a long way, though. Sungjae Im is an example of that. The South Korean has three top 5s this year, all of them in signature events. That's 60% of his points from three of the 18 tournaments he has played this year.

The system is not perfect. Horschel was among those who realized immediately that winning a tournament which should include the best perks counts toward the "swing" list of 10 and five players who get into signature events, instead of a separate entry category. A few extra players in signature events isn't going to hurt. Some tweaks are expected for next year.

His greater concern is Korn Ferry Tour graduates the new blood each season having enough access. None is among the top 70 at the moment, and only five are in the top 100. The further down the list of their priority ranking, the fewer the starts.

And that's an indication that top-50 players aren't just cherry-picking the signature events. Masters champion Scottie Scheffler has played four regular PGA Tour events, while PGA champion Xander Schauffele has played three.

Fewer fully exempt cards might be one solution. The PGA Tour must strike a balance of providing playing opportunities with creating tournaments with the best fields while keeping a path open for the next generation.

This isn't a finished product. What hasn't changed is good golf can go a long way. □